

For Immediate Release:

March 14, 2015

Contacts:

Michelle McGurk, PIO
Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo
(408) 535-4840 or (408) 655-7332 (cell)

**San José Mayor Sam Liccardo Commits to Restore Safety and Services;
Broaden Economic Opportunity in First State of the City Address**

SAN JOSE—In a forward-looking speech delivered in the gymnasium of East San José's Independence high school, San José Mayor Sam Liccardo today committed to “renew San José's great promise” by restoring public safety and city services and increasing opportunities for all residents.

“A safer and more prosperous San José will herald our city's great renewal,” Mayor Liccardo said.

Restoring Public Safety

Mayor Liccardo's plans for public safety start with restoring staffing in the San José Police Department. “My Council colleagues and I have committed to restore police staffing by adding hundreds of officers in the next half-decade, with better compensation to boost hiring and retention,” he said.

“Despite the department's shrinking size, we've seen our hardworking officers actually reduce crime rates in the past two years,” Mayor Liccardo said, noting that felony property and violent crime rates are now lower than when he was first elected to the City Council in 2006, and according to the FBI, San José has the lowest rate of violent crime of any major city in the United States.

San José can also become safer by working smarter to combat crime, and to that end Mayor Liccardo outlined six initiatives to make neighborhoods safer:

1. **Establishing a registry of security cameras** operating at local businesses and residences. When a crime occurs, police can quickly contact the camera owner and ask for permission to review video footage, saving time that previously was spent canvassing crime vicinities looking for cameras and video evidence. Residents and businesses can register their cameras online at www.sanjoseca.gov/securitycamera.
2. **Adding more Community Service Officers** to improve SJPD's response to burglaries, auto thefts, and other crimes. CSOs are academy-trained civilians who can take reports, collect evidence, lift fingerprints, providing assistance to sworn police officers.
3. **Expanding LED streetlights citywide.** Brighter lights deter crime, and with new technology, much of it pioneered in San José, the City can replace its old amber-colored streetlights with energy-efficient LED streetlights. Currently, 18,000 LED streetlights are

going up in South and East San José. Mayor Liccardo plans to update all 63,000 lights citywide through public-private partnerships.

4. **Analyzing data.** By using analytics software, the SJPD will be able to improve the way the department deploys patrol officers, anticipate crime hot spots, and better use scarce resources.
5. **Expanding truancy enforcement.** In the past eight months, SJPD made 108 arrests for burglaries in South San José. Of those arrested, half were juveniles. Truancy enforcement is a proven strategy that had been cutback during recent lean budget years.
6. **Teen jobs.** “We’ll help our teens build resumes not rap sheets,” Mayor Liccardo said, announcing plans to invest \$1 million in summer jobs for teens through the Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force. His larger initiative SJ Works is exploring ways to expand job-training and work experience for teens and young adults.

Broadening Prosperity

The second dimension of San José’s renewal is broadening prosperity for struggling families citywide. “We are San José, and we’ll show the world that when innovation meets compassion, we can lift an entire city,” Mayor Liccardo said.

“Renewing San José’s promise of economic opportunity to our residents begins with our children, and their education,” he said. “We can give every child the chance they deserve by leveraging our libraries, leadership, linkages, and learning.”

His plans include:

- **Libraries:** Opening all 23 branch libraries six days a week, including Saturdays, providing a safe learning environment for thousands of young people. Four years ago, during the Great Recession, library services were slashed to four days a week, with half of the branches closed on Saturdays.
- **Leadership:** The Mayor announced the upcoming relaunch of 1000 Hearts for 1000 Minds, a volunteer tutoring program that matches Silicon Valley talent with struggling students in partnership with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and local nonprofits.
- **Linkages:** In partnership with East Side Union High School District, East Side high school students will be connected with free wi-fi, bridging the digital divide for thousands of low-income families.
- **Learning:** Working with schools, foundations, and nonprofits, the Mayor’s SJ Learns initiative will expand innovative after-school programs in San José’s neediest neighborhoods, starting this Fall.

Expanding prosperity will require more affordable housing and creative approaches to end homelessness. “We’ll launch more innovative approaches, such as creating RV parking lots, to converting motels and building micro-housing, often leveraging private sector philanthropy,” Mayor Liccardo said.

Mayor Liccardo pledged \$3.5 million in this year’s budget for encampment response and rapid-rehousing of homeless and promised to expand the San José Gateways pilot through which homeless residents clean and beautify key entrances to the city in exchange for housing, vouchers, and job training. Led by the Downtown Streets Team, the program has early commitments from companies including Ernst & Young, SunPower, TiVO, and Wells Fargo.

Mayor Liccardo also highlighted the importance of expanding employment opportunities, especially in manufacturing. He will be developing an initiative to enable tech manufacturers to overcome the challenges they experience in finding sites, space, and skills to grow in San José. “As manufacturing continues ‘reshoring,’ we can do more to grab San José’s share,” he said. “We can also preserve thousands of blue-collar jobs by protecting industrial land from conversion by housing developers.”

Transportation is critical to the City’s economic success and with the first San José BART station poised to open in 2017 and funding in question for future stations, the Mayor committed, “I will do everything in my power to find the dollars needed to build every single one of San José’s four BART stations—including East Side. We rise and fall together as one city, from Downtown to Berryessa to Alum Rock, because we are all San José!”

We Are San José!

Mayor Liccardo concluded his speech with a call to collaboration, service, and partnership. His first State of the City Celebration continued the theme “We Are San José” that emerged from his inaugural address. As attendees arrived, a combo from the San José Jazz High School All-Stars played, followed by traditional dances from Independence Folklorico and Mabuhay Bayanihan Club of Independence High School, as well as a lion dance from Yun Yee Tong. Banners overhead proclaimed *We Are San José* in English, Spanish (Somos San José), and Vietnamese (Chúng tôi là San José).

Attendees were welcomed by Van Le, president of the East Side Union High School District Board of Trustees, and Lamanh Le, Associated Student Body President of Independence High School. Jaime Alvarado, Director of Self Sufficiency Programs for Sacred Heart Community Services, served as Master of Ceremonies. The Overfelt High School ROTC presented the colors, while the Mt. Pleasant Elementary STEAM Academy led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Angela Tirado sang the *Star-Spangled Banner*. Deacon Rubén Solorio, Director of Social Ministries for the Diocese of San José, delivered the invocation.

As is tradition, the 2015 State of the City Celebration honored exemplary city employees with the Pride of San José Awards and outstanding residents or organizations from each City Council district. The awardees were cheered by City Year San José corps members. The IndependANCE jazz dance team from Independence High School closed the State of the City program, after which attendees had an opportunity to attend a Resource Fair where they could learn about programs, services, and employment opportunities from city departments, as well as other government and nonprofit agencies.

Pride of San José Awards

(presented by Interim City Manager Norberto Dueñas)

- Officer Anthony Kilmer, San José Police Department
- Building Better Streets Team
- Homelessness Response Team
- San José Recreation Preschool Team
- Workforce Support and Development Team

Council Honorees

(presented by San José Youth Commission Chair Sachin Peddada, Vice Chair Sonia Raghuram, and Youth Commissioners Teresita Padilla and Rose Hoang)

- Julie Reynolds-Grabbe, Awarded by Councilmember Charles “Chappie” Jones, District 1
- Oak Grove Neighborhood Association, Awarded by Councilmember Ash Kalra, District 2
- Downtown Services Unit, Awarded by Councilmember Raul Peralez, District 3
- Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, Awarded by Councilmember Margie Matthews, District 4
- SOMOS Mayfair, Awarded by Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, District 5
- The Salvation Army, Awarded by Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio, District 6
- McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Association, Awarded by Councilmember Tam Nguyen, District 7
- Association of Meadowfair Community, Awarded by Vice Mayor Rose Herrera, District 8
- Xilinx Global Corporate & Community Engagement Program, Awarded by Councilmember Donald Rocha, District 9
- Leland High School Computer Science Department, Awarded by Councilmember Johnny Khamis, District 10

Broadcast schedule

The 2015 San José State of the City Celebration television coverage will be presented tape delayed on San José Civic Center TV (Channel 26) and web streamed at www.sanjoseca.gov. The SOTC Celebration will be available for on-demand Internet viewing after 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 14.

Civic Center TV will broadcast the program:

- Saturday, March 14 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Sunday, March 15 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Monday, March 16 at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m.
- Friday, March 20 at noon and 7 p.m.

#